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REMARKS

Claims 17-27 are pending in this case. Claims 1-16 were previously canceled. Claim 26 was previously withdrawn by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. In the Office action mailed February 27, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 27, 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillard in view of Kindell. Claims 17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gillard in view of Kindell, and further in view of Plunkett et al. and Evers.


Applicant respectfully disagrees with all of the rejections, and, in particular, submits that Gillard and Kindell do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent base claim 27. Claim 27 recites a digital computerized locking system adapted to be operated only by a pre-arranged single-use access code that opens the outer door and is automatically canceled when the outer door is closed. In the Office action, the Examiner noted that Gillard fails to disclose a single-use access code that is automatically canceled after the outer door is closed. Kindell discloses an access code that can be programmed so that it is automatically deleted when a deliverer scans and opens the access door. (Col. 5, lines 51-55). Kindell does not disclose an access code that is automatically deleted upon closing the outer door as is recited in claim 27 of the present application. As such, Gillard and Kindell do not teach or suggest each limitation of base claim 27. Therefore, claim 27, and all other pending claims 17-25, which depend on claim 27, are patentable over the cited prior art and all rejections should be withdrawn.

For all of the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore requested at an early date. If the examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number or e-mail address listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to Technology Center 3600, Facsimile No. (703) 872-9326 on July 28, 2003. Date of Signature: July 28, 2003.

Signature: 
Karen Walker